The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1595 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1941 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 31, NO. 44

FACING the FACTS
With PHILIP PEARL

The Scripps-Howard newspapers, whose touching concern for labor's welfare is matched only by the ferocity with which they attack every fundamental labor safeguard, want to know by what right we presume to criticize John L. Lewis for his ugly failure to cooperate with the national defense program. All right, we'll tell them.

The American Federation of Labor has the right to speak because it represents five million free American workers who enjoy and exercise their right to free speech on the same basis as any newspaper.

It has the right to criticize because it has done everything within its power to help the national defense program.

From the beginning the American Federation of Labor has gone down the line 100 per cent in support of President Roosevelt's foreign policy. Can the CIO or John L. Lewis or the Scripps-Howard newspapers, for that matter, say as much?

From the beginning, the American Federation of Labor has exerted all of its influence to avert, prevent and end as quickly as possible any interruptions of defense production due to strikes. For instance, the AFL and its subordinate departments and affiliated unions adopted no-strike policies. The AFL Executive Council recommended to the President the creation of the National Defense Mediation Board.

Can the CIO or John L. Lewis say as much?

The Record Speaks

Now, let us progress from policy to performance. Official figures show that less than one per cent of the members of the American Federation of Labor have engaged in defense strikes. Can the CIO or John L. Lewis point to such a record?

Countless AFL unions have initiated and carried through stabilization agreements with their employers and with the Federal defense agencies, barring strikes during the life of such contracts. Can the CIO or John L. Lewis match that?

Of course, they can't. And the reason is that they haven't tried to help. When the defense emergency began, Stalin was a pal of Hitler's. Lewis and the CIO Communists opposed the President's national defense policy and program. They showed their opposition by giving active aid and encouragement to Communist-inspired strikes. Now that the Communists in Soviet Russia are fighting for life against Hitler, the Communists in the CIO have suddenly become patriots and are themselves condemning the policies of their former supporter Lewis.

Is there, or was there ever any such state of affairs in the AFL? On the contrary. The AFL cooperated with the Government even when it hurt, even when a CIO leader like Sidney Hillman was placed in charge of the defense labor program. Mr. Hillman, himself, has publicly attested to the patriotic support given to the Government by the AFL building trades unions and other AFL organizations.

Of course, there have been occasional strikes by AFL unions. Let it be remembered, however, that these were local, not national, in character. Let it also be remembered that the leaders of the American Federation of Labor were the first to deplore these strikes and worked their heads off to get them settled as promptly as possible.

Hidden Motives

How, then, can anyone with a clear mind and a clear conscience attempt to place the AFL in the same boat with the CIO as regards the national defense program?

It cannot be done. The American Federation of Labor will not let it be done. We charge that anyone who attempts to do it is actuated by ulterior motives.

What are these motives? In the case of many of the daily newspapers the motives are obvious. They've got an axe to grind. They wish to crack down on organized labor. They wish to deprive trade unions of the right to strike and to impose Government regulation on the labor movement.

Now this is a free country and these newspapers have every right to advocate what they wish. We have no quarrel with them on that score, no matter how much we may differ with them on the issues. What we do object to are the repeated attempts to color the news and to obscure the issues. Sometimes we are almost tempted to agree with our colleagues in the CIO that so far as labor news is concerned there is no longer a free press in America.

Before we conclude, let us get a few words off our chest on the issue of regulatory labor legislation. We don't think it is necessary. We are certain it can do no good and will do much harm. The way to get this defense job done is for everybody to pitch in and do it. Force and compulsion from the outside will not do the trick. The only compulsion that can be at all effective is that which springs from the heart. Speaking for the AFL, we can say that our hearts are in this job and we are backing America to the limit.

Willkie to Defend Garment Unit Against Trade Restraint Charges

Wendell L. Willkie has been retained as counsel by the National Coat and Suit Industry Recovery Board to defend it against charges of restraint of trade filed recently by the Federal Trade Commission, it was announced by Alexander Printz, chairman of the organization, and David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Members of the recovery board produce 90 per cent of the total output of women's coats and suits in the United States. Of this volume 80 per cent is produced in New York City. The board was formed after the Supreme Court had voided the National Recovery Act and was patterned upon the Code Authority through which the code of fair competition of the industry was administered under the NRA. Its functioning has been hailed as an example of labor-employer cooperation.

The Trade Commission, in a complaint filed on Sept. 26, charged that the recovery board had restrained trade through its regulations governing discounts, shipping terms, memorandum sales and other business practices. The first public hearing on the charges is expected to be held soon in Washington.

Spokesmen for the board, announcing that Mr. Willkie had been retained, declared that he had "indicated his hearty approval of the principle of joint efforts of labor and management in behalf of wholesome working conditions and sound business operation."

Mr. Willkie declared that the method of arriving at constructive peace between labor and management, as provided by the Recovery Board, had received the approval of the Temporary National Economic Committee, the United States Department of Labor and many students of labor industrial relations.

"What we need now is labor peace, not labor war," Mr. Willkie said.

"The Federal Trade Commission, in lodging its complaint against the board, has attacked stabilizing measures that have been invaluable in enabling this once chaotic industry to function peacefully and constructively and to improve its service to the consuming public," the Recovery Board said.

Fifteen employers' associations and the union are affiliated with the Recovery Board. The 20,000,000 garments produced in the plants of members have a wholesale value of $300,000,000 annually. The apparel produced by the members is identified by a "Consumers' Production Label," indicating it has been produced under "fair labor and trade standards."

Electrical Workers Defense Aid Praised by Government Officials

St. Louis, Mo.—Speeding up its business with day and night sessions, the largest convention ever held by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers heard the organization's various activities to forward the national defense program lauded by government officials, reviewed the union's past achievements and resolved on united efforts for the advancement of the Brotherhood's interests and strengthening the various aspects of the American way of life against all foes.

The 1200 delegates re-elected without opposition President Ed J. Brown, Secretary G. M. Bugniazet and Treasurer W. A. Hogan. All of the vice presidents but one were also re-elected.

Illustrative of the gains made by the union was the report of President Brown revealing that practically all of the 200,000 members now have the five-day week, which was enjoyed by only 30,000 in 1929. He emphasized the Brotherhood's many contributions to national defense, and said the organization has filled every government request for electricians on defense projects within 72 hours.

Dan W. Tracy, who served as president of the Brotherhood from 1933 to 1940, declared that the last seven years has been the greatest period of labor union development in history. As an example of this progress he cited the railroads where prior to 1934, when the Railway Labor Act was passed, company unions existed on nearly every railroad property, but since then, he said, the "dummies" have been almost completely wiped out.

Lieutenant Colonel A. Robert Ginsburgh, personal representative of Under-Secretary of War Patterson, declared:

"The War Department is convinced that the American way of life is necessary to national defense. Mr. Patterson said: 'Tell them the fate of the world is in labor's hands.'"

Strikes Few, Production Booming, OPM Says, Blasting Anti-Labor Lies

Official Figures Show Up False Propaganda of Labor's Enemies as Contrary to Facts

Washington, D. C.—Despite the widespread hullabaloo about defense strikes, the nation is now enjoying a period of unprecedented industrial peace, the Office of Production Management announced.

On Nov. 1, the official figures show, there were only 10 scattered, insignificant strikes in the entire country, involving only 6,900 workers. At the same time from four to five million workers were working industrially on defense orders and speeding up production to the highest rate ever known in America.

These facts were further buttressed in an exhaustive survey made by OPM which proved the United States has already gone a long way toward achieving the goal of becoming the "arsenal of democracy."

The production figures cited by OPM gave the following graphic picture of the progress of the defense program:

Military aircraft production has increased from 501 military planes delivered in July, 1940, to 1,914 in September of this year.

The Navy has commissioned more fighting ships in the last 18 months than it did in the 14 years between 1922 and 1937.

Aircraft engine production, in terms of horsepower, has increased from 2,305,610 horsepower in January to 4,343,600 horsepower in September, a gain of 88 per cent.

By the end of this year the United States will be turning out one merchant ship a day. During the first quarter of 1942, 90 ships will be delivered: 146 will join the merchant fleet the second quarter; 154 the third quarter, and two ships a day or 184 will be delivered during the last three months of next year.

Hundreds of light and medium tanks are rolling off the assembly lines every month.

Rifles and machine guns are being produced "at the rate of thousands daily."

In the two-year period ended December 31 of this year, the machine tool industry will have produced a new capacity equal to the capacity of all machine tools in all plants of the country on January 1 of last year.

In the first nine months of 1941 ordnance equipment tripled and production of ammunition was stepped up 10 times.

Defense construction this year will total $4,200,000,000 and non-defense construction $7,000,000,000, making the combined volume equal to totals reached in the peak years of 1926 and 1927.

The production of defense goods increased from $1,400,000,000 in 1940 to $8,000,000,000 this year which in turn will be increased to $20,700,000,000 next year.

"Thus the United States girds for the struggle against aggression," the OPM said.

"But there can be no half-way measures.

"Total war calls for an all-out effort."

Britain Has Strikes Despite War; U. S. Labor Record Compares Well

Washington, D. C.—Anti-labor propagandists, who take delight in condemning American workers for occasional strikes and holding up the fine defense record of British workers as a contrast, were somewhat flabbergasted by despatches from London showing that 744,000 man-hours of labor were lost in Great Britain during September due to strikes.

These figures, released by the British Ministry of Labor, showed that even though that nation is actually at war it has been unable to prevent occasional strikes.

No one denies that British workers have rallied to their nation's emergency in an outstanding way and have succeeded in maintaining production under severe hardships, but the official report from London should make labor critics in this country appreciate better the fine service which has been rendered by American workers.

Taking into consideration the number of workers employed in defense industries in both countries, the facts indicate there were just as few strikes proportionately in this country, which is still at peace, during September as in war-torn Britain.

The London despatch stated that the stoppages involved workers in three British aircraft factories and in one aluminum mill supplying the aircraft industry. The strikes were short-lived in most cases but the total number represented an increase over the number of strikes in the same month last year.

Telegraphers Elect New President; $500,000 In Wage Increases Reported

Toronto, Canada.—William L. Allen, formerly international secretary-treasurer, was elected international president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union at the 19th regular convention here. Hugh C. McKenny of Washington, an employe of Western Union, was elected international secretary-treasurer. Frank B. Powers, former international president, was elected editor and statistician, a new position.

The convention had the largest attendance in the history of the CTU and some 30 Western Union delegates from every section of the country took part. Considerable attention was given to ways and means of completing the organization and scheduling of Western Union employes, 5,000 of whom are already under agreement, while 11,000 additional are awaiting official certifications by the Labor Board or the consummation of agreements.

It was reported that 47 agreements with Western Union are now in existence, representing a total of more than $500,000 a year in wage increases.

Recent elections were won by the CTU in Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Omaha and Sioux Falls, S. D., Olympia and Tacoma, Wash. Among some of the larger cities included in the 47 are: Baltimore, Birmingham, Albany, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Kansas City, Seattle, Washington, and Oakland, Calif.

President Allen announced that every effort would be made to assist Western Union employes in winning pending elections, and negotiating new agreements or renewals.

Four new members were elected to the General Executive Board, all from Western Union locals.

The new board is as follows: G. R. Pawson, chairman, Toronto; Arthur Markel, Secretary, Washington; W. V. McEwen, Winnipeg; John B. Alcorn, Chicago; Harry S. Leimbach, Riva, Md.; J. W. Reynolds, Washington; Adolph Brungs, Cincinnati; J. A. Payne, Kansas City, Mo., and Vincent P. Dunn, San Francisco.

Headquarters of the CTU will be moved to Washington as soon as arrangements can be made. Chicago has been the headquarters since 1902.

One of the reasons for moving to Washington, President Allen stated, was to be in closer contact with the American Federation of Labor and with Congress in the fight against merging of the telegraphs.

"Merger of the Western Union and Postal will be fought to the bitter end," declared President Allen.

ROOSEVELT ASKS PAY BOOSTS FOR 653,000 U. S. WORKERS

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt sent to Congress a uniform plan for salary increases for Federal and District Government employes, and asked that $3,236,327 be appropriated for within-grade pay raises this fiscal year.

The plan would implement the Ramspeck Act. The $3,000,000 fund would be divided as follows:

District Government, $116,051; GPO, $6050; Treasury, $698,825; Veterans Administration, $642,125; Agriculture, $526,291; Post Office, $280,685; GAO, $185,747.

Total number of employes covered by the plan is 653,000, of whom 142,800 are in Washington. More than 140,000 whose entrance salaries were less than $2000 will receive $60 raises. The 68,100 with entrance salaries between $2000 and $3500 will get $100 increases. The 10,800 getting between $3500 and $5600 will get $200 increases, and 600 employes getting more than $6500 will be raised $250 a year each.

HIGHER WAGES ORDERED IN FIVE INDUSTRIES

Washington, D. C.—The Wage and Hour Administration of the Department of Labor announced that five industrial wage orders directly increasing the wage rates of about 320,000 workers went into effect on November 2.

These wage orders require payment of at least 40 cents an hour in the shoe, furniture, jewelry and gray iron foundry industries, and at least 35 cents an hour in the lumber and timber products industry.

The lumber wage order affects the largest number. It is estimated that it will increase the hourly wage rate of 168,000 workers, mostly in the South. Logging operations are not under the lumber wage order. The cutting of timber and pulp wood in the woods is at the 30-cent-an-hour statutory minimum of the wage and hour law, it was explained, while the 35-cent-an-hour lumber wage order and the 40-cent-an-hour paper wage order start with the unloading of the logs at the saw mills or paper mills.

News Briefs

BUILDING WAGES INCREASE 3.7 PER CENT IN 75 CITIES

Washington, D. C.—Union wage rates in the building trades advanced 3.7 per cent from June 1940 to June 1941, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The average union rate for all building trades was $1.365 per hour on June 1, 1941, in the seventy-five cities covered in the survey. The journeyman average was $1.30 per hour, while the average for helpers and laborers was 86.8 cents per hour. About 1 per cent of the journeymen had scales of less than $1 while about 6 per cent had rates of $2 and over. Almost 40 per cent of the helpers and laborers had rates between 70 and 90 cents, while 14 per cent had rates of $1.20 and over.

Over 43 per cent of the journeymen and about 50 per cent of the helpers and laborers in the seventy-five cities covered in the survey received raises during the year.

U. S. NAVY SEIZES ALLOY STEEL PLANT

Philadelphia, Pa.—Under the provisions of legislation recently approved by Congress, the Navy seized the plant, land and equipment of the Federal Alloy Steel Corporation in Eddystone for use in defense production. The plant has been closed down for several years.

This was one of the properties the administration had in mind when it told Congress that power to seize plants was essential to deal with those who were trying to hold up the government.

Two or three years ago the Eddystone plant was put up at auction and was bought in by bondholders for $450,000. The government offered $600,000 for the plant, but the owners demanded $1,000,000 and refused to take a penny less.

TESTIMONIAL IS PLANNED FOR D. OF C. LABOR LEADER

Washington, D. C.—Fred S. Walker, labor member of the District of Columbia Minimum Wage Board, and business manager of the Trades Unionist, official organ of the Central Labor Union, who has been prominent in labor circles for many years, will be honored with a testimonial dinner November 27 at the Mayflower Hotel, it was announced by Louis A. Lopez, chairman, and John Locher, secretary of the Walker Testimonial Committee.

LABOR DEPARTMENT ASKS SAFER DEFENSE PLANTS

Washington, D. C.—A report by the Department of Labor's Committee for the Conservation of Manpower in Defense Industries shows that accidents to employed workers take a far greater toll of production than strikes. The report disclosed that such accidents, largely due to inadequate safety precautions by employers, caused a loss of one and one-half billion man hours, or 187,500,000 man days in 1940.

This loss is nearly 30 times as great as the man day losses from strikes last year, and as much as all strike losses in the past 14 years combined, the Department of Labor figures show.

Because of this tremendous increase in industrial accidents the committee has started a nation-wide campaign to establish safer working conditions in defense plants.

$175,000 WAGE RAISE WON BY ELECTRICIANS

New York, N. Y.—Wage increases totaling $175,000 a year for 1,200 employes working on defense orders at the Yonkers plant of the Habirshaw Wire and Cable Company, a subsidiary of the Phelps Dodge Copper Products Corporation, resulted from a routine talk between the company's plant manager and the representative of Local No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL affiliate.

Confronted with the fact that rising prices virtually had wiped out the effect of a ten-cent-an-hour wage increase provided in a contract signed by the company and the union six months ago, the plant manager presented the matter to Wylie Brown, president of the parent corporation. The result was an informal agreement that all wages would be increased 5 cents an hour.

CRISFIELD OYSTERMEN CHOOSE AFL AFFILIATE

Crisfield, Md.—A National Labor Relations Board election held in twenty-five separate Crisfield oyster packing houses to choose a collective bargaining representative resulted in a unit vote of 20 to 5 in favor of Local 19600, United Oystermen's Union, AFL affiliate, John . Lorden, American Federation of Labor organizer, announced. Lorden said employes of two houses previously had voted for the union, bringing to twenty-two the number of plants which have designated the AFL union as their collective bargaining agent.

He gave the total individual vote as 780, of which 674 voted for the union and 106 against.

Lorden disclosed a campaign was under way to organize the entire Eastern Shore oyster industry, a movement which he said would extend as far as Baltimore.

New Anti-Labor Drive Collapses; Restrictive Legislation Balked

AFL Also Fights Attempt To Include Wage Curbs in Price Control Bill

Washington, D. C.—Collapse of the latest anti-labor drive to impose drastic legislative restrictions on the rights of American workers was conceded by Congressional leaders.

President Roosevelt made it clear at a White House press conference that he had no intention at this time of recommending legislation abridging the right to strike or otherwise regulating union activities.

Anti-labor propagandists sought to capitalize on the captive coal mine strike to revive legislation which would handcuff and shackle free American workers. However, when the strike was called off after a few days, the grounds for their arguments disappeared. All that remained was a wave of denunciation of John L. Lewis and his supporters in the CIO for endangering the national defense program by calling such strikes without first exhausting mediation machinery.

Labor opponents in Congress are still nursing their wrath, however, and are awaiting only another similar opportunity to renew their onslaughts against the trade union movement. They ignore the fine record of the American Federation of Labor in the defense program and the splendid service rendered day-in and day-out by the vast majority of defense workers, because their real objective is not to strengthen the defense program but to weaken organized labor.

On another front, American Federation of Labor representatives served notice on Congressional leaders that under no circumstances will the AFL agree to the imposition of wage ceilings by legislation.

The anti-inflation bill now under consideration in Congress does not attempt to freeze wages, but strong employer pressure is being exerted to include such a provision.

The American Federation of Labor maintains that the labor of human beings is not a commodity and that it would be a moral and economic wrong to attempt to fix maximum wages by law.

It was pointed out by AFL representatives that in his special message to Congress asking for legislation to curb excessive price rises, and to control rents, President Roosevelt specifically exempted wages from consideration.

Big business groups, anxious to keep wages down and prevent deserved pay increases, are keeping in the background in this fight, preferring to have farm groups carry on their battle for them. Under some misconception of the facts, certain farm organizations are favoring wage curbs. The AFL repeatedly has pointed out, however, that if wages are restricted the farmers themselves will suffer because domestic purchasing power will be thereby limited and the market for farm products reduced.

The negotiation of fair collective bargaining contracts constitutes the most practical form of wage control, union leaders declared. Under these contracts, they said, the rate of wages is stabilized for one or two years and industry is able to determine in advance what production costs will be.

The AFL is campaigning for price control legislation, minus wage restrictions, because inflation and higher living costs result in the equivalent of wage cuts.

RAILROAD WAGE BOARD OFFERS COMPROMISE

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt's emergency board, after six weeks study of the railroad wage dispute, submitted its findings to the White House. The recommendations were not made public when this edition went to press, but reliable reports indicated the board had suggested a compromise settlement. Under this compromise, it was said, both the operating and non-operating unions would be offered about a third of the wage increases they had demanded.

The railroad unions voted a nation-wide strike after their wage increase demands had been rejected by the management. The President thereupon declared an emergency to exist and appointed the special board to study the case and report to him.

I. L. O. VOTES FOR HITLER DEFEAT

Also Calls for Post-War Reconstruction Program

New York City.—The world conference of the International Labor Organization adopted unanimously a resolution submitted by the United States delegation, headed by Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, asserting that the defeat of totalitarian aggressors in the war is vital and calling for immediate action toward the post-war reconstruction of Europe.

The resolution demanded planning at once "for the feeding of peoples in need, for the reconstruction of the devastated countries, for the provision and transportation of raw materials and capital equipment necessary for the restoration of economic activity, for the reopening of trade outlets, for the resettlement of workers and their families under circumstances in which they can work in freedom and security and hope for the changing over of industry to the needs of peace, for the maintenance of employment, and for the raising of standards of living throughout the world."

Secretary Perkins, following the seconding of the resolution by delegates from numerous countries and the unanimous vote in its favor by the spokesmen of thirty-five nations, asserted that the document would receive the unanimous favor of the American people, whether isolationist or interventionist. She said:

"As an American I am deeply gratified that this resolution has been adopted by this conference, and particularly as it represents a truly American point of view, a view that unites us rather than a view that separates us as a people. It is not merely the view of the American delegates in this convention; it is not merely the view of the government or of the present Administration of the United States.

"The items and details which are discussed, for example, in Paragraph 2 are the kind of objective and the kind of program which unite the American people, and this, I think, will find a ready response in all groups of people, all groups who are not here today but who represent the real meaning of American life. It is the objective of people who are extreme pacifists, of those who are in favor of the immediate entrance of the United States and participation in the war, it is the view of those who agree with the President, and it is the view of those who do not take his position . . . for we are at heart a very humanitarian people."

Miss Perkins remarked that Americans "are a practical people," and that the detailed statement of war aims would draw Americans' favor so as to "reconstruct a healthy world economy." She concluded with the belief "that this kind of an objective expressed by the I. L. O. at this time may perhaps release the energies of the American people in a concrete, constructive and creative way for the help of the world."

Jan Mazaryk, Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Czecho-Slovakian government in exile in London, one of the Czech delegates to the conference, was cheered as he read a joint declaration by Czech, Greek, Polish and Yugoslavian representatives calling for joint post-war action by the four nations for common economic, social and political aims.

John W. Bruce, workers' adviser to the Canadian delegation, who seconded the American resolution for post-war reconstruction plans, asserted that workers after this war will refuse to "be appeased by glib phrases of liberty, freedom and democracy," and they will demand a better social order.

MILWAUKEE SHOE WORKERS GAIN HIGHER WAGE PACTS

Milwaukee, Wis.—Wage increases of from 5 to 10 per cent went into effect here for 2500 production or warehouse workers in 8 of the city's shoe plants, officials of the AFL Boot and Shoe Workers Union No. 170 announced.

WAGE FREEZING, LONGER HOURS, HIT BY FLEMING

Proposals made in Congress and elsewhere for "freezing" of wages during the defense emergency were assailed by General Philip B. Fleming, Fair Labor Standards Act Administrator, as unjust and unworkable.

"To 'freeze' wages is to freeze all the wage injustices and inequalities now existing," Fleming declared. "But you can't freeze the discontent and resentment of the man in one factory who is being paid far less than a man in some other factory doing exactly the same kind of work."

Fleming suggested that boards of employers, labor and the public be set up to seek uniform, high wage levels, industry by industry.

The administrator also denounced propaganda for lengthening of the work week as a "blind" for elimination of the requirement in the law for payment of time and one-half rates for overtime. In many defense industries, he said, hours run as high as 52 to 53 a week.

"Can it be said that these hours are not long enough?" he demanded. "On the contrary, from the standpoint of health, safety and efficient production, they are near the danger point."

Employers permitted to escape the time and one-half pay rule for overtime would have a "green light" to work employes unlimited hours, Fleming warned.

SMALL-HOUSE CONTRACTORS SIGN DETROIT AFL CONTRACT

Detroit, Mich.—Under a new contract, several thousand carpenters in Detroit, formerly working on small houses under nonunion conditions at wages under $1 an hour, will get 30 per cent wage increases, the Carpenters District Council of Detroit announced.

The contract was signed with the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit. The new scale is $1.25 an hour, a 30 per cent increase. The work week is reduced to 40 hours and double time is paid for Sundays and holidays.